Advancement in the drug industry

650. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drug industry has made considerable advancement under the umbrella provided by Patents Act, 1970 leading to self reliance, exports and lower prices in the market as compared to equivalent prices in Pakistan, USA, UK etc.;

(b) whether Government have made any independent study of sale prices of drugs manufactured by Indian companies and multi-national companies in India and if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any study on comparative sale prices of some drugs by the same multinational companies in USA/UK etc.; and

(d) whether Government would ensure that the momentum gathered by Indian drug companies is not hampered through India joining Paris Convention on Patents ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) The Pharmaceutical Industry has registered a very impressive growth over the years and the growth rate on an average has been 10% per annum. In exports also, the performance has been very good and in the year 1988-89, export worth Rs. 468 crores was achieved.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government will give all necessary policy support for the growth of this vital industry.

Setting up of autonomous board for Power generation

651. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: SMT. SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up an autonomous board for generation of power and its equitable distribution amongst the different regions of the country;

(b) if so, what is the nature of its set up and by when it is likely to come into existence; and

(c) what will be the relationship between the said autonomous board and the Electricity Boards of different States ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

तेल कम्पनियों के अधिकारियों पर किया गया खर्च

652. श्रीमती रमा बहिन : क्या पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इंडियन आयल कारपोरेशन, भारत पेट्रोलियम कारपोरेशन और हिन्दुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कारपोरेशन के अधिकारियों के दौरों पर दिसम्बर, 1989 से अब तक होटल किराये और टैक्सी भाड़ा प्रभारों सहित पृथक-पृथक रूप से कितनी धनराशि खर्च की गई है; और

(ख) गत तीन माह के दौरान तेल कम्पनियों के अधिकारियों द्वारा देश के भीतर और विदेशों में किये गए दौरों पर सरकार ने कितनी धनराशि खर्च की है ?